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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/517,089      | 12/06/2004  | Thomas Anthony Stahl | PU020274            | 1127             |

7590 03/21/2007  
Joseph S Tripoli  
Thomson Licensing Inc  
PO Box 5312  
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312

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| EXAMINER |
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SALAD, ABDULLAHI ELM I

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2157

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 03/21/2007 | PAPER         |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.



**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This application has been reviewed. Original claims 1-18 are pending. The rejection cited stated below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art [hereinafter AAPA] In view of May et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0252688[hereinafter May].

As per claim 1, and 11AAPA discloses In a device attached to a network, a method for controlling distribution of data from the device to another device via the network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital signal representative of program content, (see paragraphs 0005-0006);

determining whether a destination device to which the digital signal is to be distributed is outside the network (see paragraphs 0005-0006);

determining whether the authorization field is indicative of the first or second transport mode; and

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inhibiting transmission of the digital signal in response to determining that the authorization field is indicative external network and the destination device is outside the network (0006), otherwise, transmitting the digital signal to the destination device AAPA is silent regarding: the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing distribution of the digital signal outside the network, and of a second transport mode inhibiting distribution of the digital signal outside the network.

May discloses Routing packets in frame-based data communication networks, includes providing the data packets with multiple headers, each of the multiple headers having one of the destination addresses wherein the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing distribution of the digital signal outside the network, and of a second transport mode inhibiting distribution of the digital signal outside the network (i.e., including the frame a field that identifies digital signal/frame delivery requirement such as an authorization field which indicated which interface local or external interface to deliver the digital signal or the frame (see paragraph 0080-0082, 0097-0098). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the to utilize the digital delivery mechanism such as taught by May, thus enabling only the frames that are addressed to the local interface nodes are delivered to authorized destination in the local interface, thereby improving the utilization of the existing network infrastructure.

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As per claims 2-8, and 12-18 May discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the first determining step comprises the steps of: receiving location information of a router on the network that is used for routing data to devices outside the network; receiving destination data indicative of location information associated with a destination device to which the program content is to be distributed; and determining whether the destination device is outside the network by determining whether the destination data corresponds to the location information of the router (see paragraph 0080-0082, 0097-0098).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salad E Abdullahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4009. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abdullahi Salad  
3/17/2007

ABDULLAHI SALAD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER